



Resort Advisory Commission
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RESORT ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: May 4, 2017
TIME: 3:00 pm
PLACE: Virginia Beach Convention Center, Room 4AB

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Kristina Chastain
BJ Baumann
Billy Almond
Sam Reid
Sylvia Strickland
Bill Gambrell
Randy Thompson
Preston Midgett
Tyler Brown
Russell Lyons
Bobby Melatti
John Hawa
Bryan Cuffee
Gerrie West
Laura Habr
Michael Cloud-Butler

Nancy Creech

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Craig Roback

OTHERS PRESENT

Kathy Spangler, JYF
Caroline Wood, Oceana
John Uhrin, Council
Stacey Parker, The Pilot
Kathy Warren, SGA
Kristine Gay, SGA
Mike Eason, CVB/Resort Mgmt.
Robin Hart, CVB/Recorder

Chair Kristina Chastain called the meeting to order at 3:00p.m.

Motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2017 meeting as written.

Commemoration 2019 – Kathy Spangler, JYF

Kathy Spangler reviews what was happening in 1619 that will be represented at the 2019 Commemoration. More information found at <http://www.americanevolution2019.com/>.

The themes will center around democracy, diversity, and opportunity. Their strategic goals will center on education, tourism and economic development.

She tells the Commission that this Commemoration is a statewide endeavor and not about Jamestown alone.

Kathy reviews the profile for the education, key projects, legacy projects, signature events, and programs and tours scheduled for the Commemoration.

The goal is to partner across the Commonwealth so we can align and lift each other up as a region.

QUESTIONS

Sylvia Strickland asks if there are still opportunities available for support and mentions representing the Indians that are already here at the time and Kathy is open for additional suggestions for the Commemoration.

Preston Midgett asks if they are working the Commemoration into the Beach Events Program and Kathy and Bobby Melatti are working together. Kathy is collecting media assets to support Bobby's ideas.

Kristina Chastain asks what they are doing with the CVB and Kathy replies that Brad Van Dommelen was at their January meeting and on board. There is a series airing in the UK, called "Jamestown" which will air in the United States in the fall or spring of 2018. It will impact tourism and visitation in Virginia.

Same Reid mentions the Virginia Constitution being the predecessor to the U.S. Constitution and Kathy says that the Madison Scholars' Conference will focus on it.

Offshore Drilling Exploration Update – Caroline Wood / Oceana

Caroline Wood updates the Commission from her last appearance here two years ago, when there was a lot of support for offshore drilling. Our area ultimately voted "no" for the idea but that did not mean that Virginia cannot opt back into the offshore program.

There is a new political climate and there have been a lot of changes in the two days prior to her speaking to RAC today. She says that currently Kaine and Warner are not supportive at this time. Trump has indicated/issued an Executive Order tasking his administration to implement the offshore drilling program, which means they (Oceana, and those in our region who oppose the project) have to start over. There is a minimum of 18 months before the project can be finalized, and groups like RAC are encouraged to weigh in. She points out that revenue sharing is not likely under this administration.

QUESTIONS

BJ asks why the current administration does not seem interested in the military's position and Caroline has agreed that the military has stated that offshore drilling is not compatible with their operations here.

Preston Midgett comments that we are all taking a risk and asks if there is a better way to find out what is truly out there other than seismic testing and Caroline replies that there is not, and that seismic testing has not improved.

Committee Reports

Transportation, Parking, Pedestrian Committee (TPPC)

Preston Midgett reports that they did not meet last month.

Planning and Design Review (PDR)

Billy Almond reports that they met Tuesday morning. He distributed a handout on the Starbucks alternative compliance submittal, which they reviewed and approved it with some conditions about some sitework. They also had a presentation handout from Bob Hughes, who will run the café on 27th Street next to the Hyatt. They reviewed and approved that presentation with the condition that they see the landscape plan for the boardwalk café.

Emily Archer briefed the PDRC on the current plans for the 19th Street corridor, which is at about 65% complete and the plans for the 18th Street corridor, which is at schematic design, and the plans for the 17th Street corridor at either schematic or 35% complete.

The 19th Street Development committee was briefed on the same about a week ago and Billy and Tim Barrows sent a comment letter back to the SGA with review comments on the designs.

The review brought up the fact that the budget is coming up and these projects are dependent upon the funding that is in the budget. He wanted to know if RAC is interested in continuing to support the funding of the infrastructure improvements in the ViBe District, as these are sizeable projects that need to move forward and they need 19th Street funding quickly and then they will need 18th and 17th Streets, as they are quality projects that promote pedestrian connectivity and begins to establish the ViBe as a District, with neighborhood markers and graphics and bike racks, etc. He did not know what the mood of the Commission is to get a note or letter to Council to continue to support the ViBe District and especially these infrastructure projects.

Concerning the Starbucks, Bill Gambrell thought that drive-throughs were not being supported in this area, but Billy and Kristine Gay provided information on how through Optional Form is allowed.

Bill Gambrell believes that we want to support the ViBe District projects and also voiced support for the proposed fieldhouse. We, as an organization would want Council to support that. He thinks that the fieldhouse, from a concept standpoint, is something that RAC supports.

Russell Lyons thinks that these projects – the ViBe and the fieldhouse – are two separate issues and that attention is not being removed from one in order to be put toward another.

Laura Habr adds to that saying that for 12 years they have been trying to get sidewalks built to connect the convention center to the oceanfront. The concept for the ViBe grew out of that need. She thanks the Commission for their support and seconds Bill's motion to support funding for the 19th Street projects and fieldhouse.

Preston Midgett says that, when we looked at the official version of the project, it included parking on each side, a lane in each direction and a turning lane in the center. They talked about taking the turning land and making it a median and turning it into a grassy area.

Billy says that they had written a letter that commented on all of that and the information went to Emily Archer to take to public works to get those changes made in the design. He thinks that what they are voting on today is to continue to support the infrastructure improvements, meaning 19th Street, 18th Street, 17th Street and to support the ViBe District. He thinks it is more of a global thing than the design, which is at 65% and can be modified a little bit.

They originally had a green median down 19th Street and traffic engineers were concerned that you could not take a left into every single lot on 19th Street. Laura added that the design was that way because light rail was under consideration and connection to the Dome site was a recommendation by the developer. When the light rail idea died and the developer left, they went back to the idea that was presented with on-street parking. Billy added that the second idea allows them the ability to reverse the lanes and flush traffic when necessary.

Preston supports the second idea.

Russell Lyons verified that this is an overall proposal to improve the ViBe District and keep the funding for it. Bill Gambrell agrees that it was his motion.

Kristina Chastain called for a vote and it was unanimous to support the funding for the 19th Street project including the ViBe area and the concept of the fieldhouse.

Preston Midgett mentions that Ron Williams gave a report to Council Tuesday night updating the entertainment area, and in it, he talked about the different locations for the fieldhouse, the parking deck and the connectivity between the dome site and here. He thinks that we should get that presentation because there are a lot of moving parts and there are some issues that RAC needs to see, as this is part of our charge.

Kristina agrees.

Resort Investment Committee (RIC)

Kristina Chastain reports that they had a brief from Captain Ronan and Deputy Chief Zucaro on the college beach weekend and were invited back to the RIC in June for an update if they had more information. She calls on the VBRA, VBHA and residents to voice their opinions on the weekend to the paper.

There was discussion the Human Rights Commission wanting to assistance with ideas on handling the weekend and Billy Almond, Russell Lyons, BJ Baumann and Preston Midgett had volunteered so far.

Oceanfront Strategic Growth Area Committee (OEC)

BJ Baumann reports that the OSGAC did not meet.

G.R.E.E.N. Committee

Laura Habr reports to the Commission that they had a great funding opportunity to get more stickers for the beach recycling trash cans and businesses for distribution, and they will be applied/reapplied in June.

Oceanfront Enhancement Committee (OEC)

Sam Reid reported that they discussed the Sense of Arrival at the last OEC meeting. As they talked about at the RAC meeting last month, he reads the motion from the second paragraph of a draft letter distributed to the Commission at today's meeting for review:

After discussion on the pending siting and development of the arena and fieldhouse in the vicinity, it was decided to endorse the art concept for the Sense of Arrival to include lighted surfboards for the perimeter of I264, with an accompanied CIP, as a Phase I for the project.

He says that the second paragraph alludes to a Phase II:

A central water feature as part of a water quality management plan for the Sense of Arrival was suggested for a Phase II, but due to potential undetermined impacts from future developments, the focus is concentrated on the perimeter. Phase I would be part of, but operate independently from the idea to be finalized for the center of the Sense of Arrival area in the middle of I264.

Kristina asks Sam to make the motion a little more concise, and Sam makes the motion that the RAC support the letter before them for Phase I and potential Phase II for the Sense of Arrival. **The Commission voted to approve the motion with one abstention from Billy Almond, whose firm, WPL, located at 242 Mustang Trail, Suite 8, Virginia Beach, VA, 23452, is involved with the project.**

Sam concluded his report.

Staff Report

Mike Eason follows up on Laura's cleanup effort on Shore Drive, and says that staff will support whatever they can do to get the cans out and stickers applied.

Mike can work with Preston on getting Ron Williams to provide an update.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 4:45p.m.

In Reply Refer to 0056469

March 29, 2017

Mr. Mike Eason
Resort Management Office
2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 302
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451

Re: Abstention Pursuant to Conflict of Interests Act § 2.2-3115(F)

Dear Mr. Eason:

Pursuant to the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act (“the Act”), I make the following declaration:

1. I am executing this written disclosure regarding the SGA Sense of Arrival project at the eastern terminus of I-264. I am making this disclosure as a member of the Resort Advisory Commission and the following RAC subcommittees: Planning and Design Review Committee; Resort Investment Committee; and the Oceanfront Strategic Growth Area Committee.
2. I have a personal interest in WPL, which is located at 242 Mustang Trail, Suite 8 in Virginia Beach. WPL provided landscape architectural services with respect to the project.
3. I have chosen to abstain from voting on this matter. I respectfully request that your staff record this declaration in the official records of the RAC as well as the records of any of the above-referenced RAC subcommittees, from this date forward, whenever the matter is discussed during any meeting of any of those public bodies.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



William “Billy” Almond
Committee Member

WA/RRI